THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The exports of cotton mill-made fabrics and made-ups have increased in terms of both volume and value since the ushering in of the new Textile Policy.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Projects from Andhra Pradesh Government pending clearance

824. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of projects from Andhra Pradesh Government that are pending clearance from environmental angle;

(b) for how long these projects are pending for clearance; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Central Government to clear these projects at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Eight projects are pending clearance from environmental angle from Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Decisions on all projects for which complete Environmental Management Plans are made available are decided within a maximum period of three months. But, these projects are awaiting final decision for a period varying between six months to 3 years primarily because of the non-furnishing of the requisite Environmental Management Plans in a complete form by the project authorities.

(c) Steps taken for early clearance include:

—Regular interaction with the project authorities to facilitate furnishing of all the requisite information;

—Field visits by environmental experts to sort out on the spot the required details in the Environmental Management Plans; and

—Meetings of the Expert Appraisal Committees at least once a month to quickly review the cases where adequate details have been furnishd.

Home Minister's talks with Assam Chief Minister on Implementation of Assam Accord

825. PROF C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of the discussions held by the Home Minister with the Chief Minister of Assam regarding the implementation of Assam Accord; and

(b) what are the major issues that remain to be resolved towards the implementation of the Accord?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Among other things, progress made in the implementation of the Assam Accord was reviewed in the recent discussions held by the Home Minister with the Chief Minister, Assam on 7th July, 1988 and the need for working in close cooperation and complete cohesion towards fulfilling provisions of the Accord in toto in letter as well as in spirit was again stressed. Among the major issues that were deliberated upon were the construction of border roads/fence along the border and matters under clause 6 of the Accord pertaining to safeguards for Assamese people.